MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I wish to know whether Rs. 250 was thought sufficient considering the quality and nature of the work to be done by these officers.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Consistent with the ruling of the President, I do not think I can answer it.

PRESIDENT: Again you are asking for an opinion.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): It is not a matter of opinion.

PRESIDENT: You need not answer that question.

Departmental Examination in the Medical Department.

422. MR. V. J. OOMMEN (*Commerce and Industry, North*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether there is a G. O. to the effect that the L. C. P. & S. and L. M. P. diploma holders will have to pass a departmental examination before they are confirmed; and

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the affirmative, whether appointments were made against this circular, and, if so, why?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) In view of the answer to part (*a*), this question does not arise.

Lalam-Kadutturutti Road.

423. MR. A. C. KURIAKOSE (*Minachil cum Devicolam*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are aware that the present condition of the Lalam-Kadutturutti road is undesirable?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): It is reported that the road is not a metalled road and that, in the rainy season, portions of it get slushy.

The Lalam Hospital.

424. MR. A. C. KURIAKOSE (*Minachil cum Devicolam*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they are aware that accommodation and facilities for the treatment of in-patients in the Lalam Hospital are absolutely insufficient;

(*b*) whether they have come to any decision as regards the representations made by the representatives of the people for opening an operation theatre in this hospital;

(*c*) if the answer to part (*b*) is in the affirmative, what that decision is; and

(*d*) whether they are not aware that the people are much aggrieved at the Government disregarding their prayer for the entertainment of a lady Assistant Medical Officer in the Lalam Hospital?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) No.

(*b*) and (*c*) There is already a room for conducting surgical operations. No further action is considered necessary at present.

(*d*) The question will be considered when more qualified women doctors and trained nurses become available.

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